

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 16-21, 23-26, 36-38, 43-53, 68-73, 75-78, 88-90, 95-106, 119-126, 131-144, 157-164, and 169-187 currently stand in the present application. Claims 1, 53, 106, 144 and 185 are independent.

In this paper, the following claims have been deleted without prejudice or disclaimer: 9-5, 22, 27-35, 39-42, 61-67, 74, 79-87, 91-94, 114-118, 127-130, 152-156 and 165-168. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 and each of claims 39-42. Claim 53 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 and each of claims 91-94. Claim 106 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 and each of claims 127-130. Claim 144 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 and each of claims 165-168. Claim 185 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 and each of claims 39-42.

Applicants have made a number of other relatively minor amendments to overcome formal objections raised by the Examiner (e.g., Markush language and the like). Applicants would be very appreciative for the Examiner's cooperation to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney if there are any other formal objections that can be resolved over the telephone.

It is believed that no new subject matter has been entered by the present amendments, or any new issues presented that would require further consideration. Therefore entry of these claim amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to note that all amendments made herein are for the purpose of clarifying claim scope and not in response to any particular rejection or to comply with any particular statutory requirement.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected the previously pending claims under 35 U.S.C §112 (first paragraph). The Examiner was particularly concerned with the terms “linker moiety” and “organic radical”. For the sole purpose of advancing prosecution of the present application, independent claims 1, 53, 106, 144 and 85 have been amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Official Action. It is believed these amendments render moot, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph).

Applicants have also made various amendments to the claims to overcome the informalities and rejections raised under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph). Again, Applicants wish to reiterate that the Examiner should feel free to telephone Applicant’s undersigned attorney if there are any other informalities which could be corrected over the telephone.

On pages 6 and 7 of the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 106, 113-141, 144, 152-179 and 182-187 on the basis that the “disclosed” process subject matter

purportedly fails to include any references to what chemical reagents are being used to catalyze or otherwise assist in a formation of new chemical bonds thereby rendering the instance claims incomplete. This rejection is not understood by Applicants.

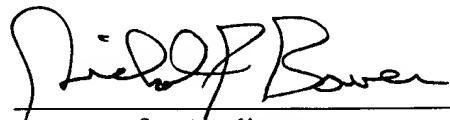
These claims are clear and definite insofar as the process steps and the reagents used. The Examiner appears to suggest that, on the issue of selection of catalyst, the claims in their current form amount to a “hunting license”. This is clearly wrong.

The patent specification is addressed to a person of ordinary skill in the art. In this case, that person would have no difficulty understanding the meaning of the term “catalyst”. Adopting the Examiner’s reasoning, the onus would be on the Applicants to list in the independent process claims every single chemical which could be used as catalyst. This is clearly unreasonable and Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

In view of the above, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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